

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application as amended. Claims 1-29 and 31-45 are pending in the application. New claims 43-45 have been added.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-10, and 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by James, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,841,989; hereinafter “James”) in view of Tomizawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,202,082; hereinafter “Tomizawa”). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Claim 1 sets forth “utilizing the configuration information **to configure one of the plurality of functional blocks.**” The Examiner admitted in the Office Action that James does not disclose such a limitation (Office Action, p. 2, lines 16-18). However, the Examiner argued that Tomizawa discloses such a limitation. Specifically, the Examiner argued that Tomizawa discloses decoding configuration information packets to extract configuration information from the packet and utilizing the configuration information to configure one of the plurality of *nodes* (Office Action, p. 2, lines 18-21). The Examiner appeared to have analogized the nodes in Tomizawa to the functional blocks in claim 1. Although Applicants do not necessarily agree with the Examiner, assuming *arguendo* that the nodes in Tomizawa are analogous to the functional blocks in claim 1, Tomizawa still fails to disclose utilizing the configuration information **to configure one of the plurality of functional blocks** because Tomizawa merely discloses a “*ring configuration* information packet” (Tomizawa, col. 20, lines 7-10). According to Tomizawa, a source node can collect and recognize information on the *network configuration* of node deployment and condition of all nodes (Tomizawa, col. 20, lines 36-38). In other words, Tomizawa merely discloses the configuration of the *ring* or the *network* connecting the nodes, not configuration of the nodes. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner had mistakenly equate the configuration of the functional blocks with the configuration of the ring coupling the functional blocks to each other. In the Office Action, the Examiner wrote:

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include configuration information packets as taught by Tomizawa in the

system of James to allow each node to know the system **configuration of the ring**, ...

Office Action, p. 2, line 21 – p.3, line 1; emphasis added).

It is respectfully submitted that the configuration of the ring and the configuration of the functional blocks are distinct and separate concepts because the ring and the functional blocks are two different types of components.

Therefore, a combination of James and Tomizawa fails to disclose each and every limitation in claim 1. For at least this reason, claim 1 is patentable over James in view of Tomizawa.

Claims 2-10 depend, directly and indirectly, from claim 1. Therefore, claims 2-10 are patentable over James in view of Tomizawa for at least the reason discussed above with respect to claim 1. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejections.

For at least the reason discussed above with respect to claim 1, claim 17 is patentable over James in view of Tomizawa. The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection.

Claims 18-20 depend, directly and indirectly, from claim 17. Therefore, claims 18-19 are patentable over James in view of Tomizawa for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 17. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejections.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 11-16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over James in view of Tomizawa, and further in view of Christiansen et al. (U.S. 5,983,302; hereinafter, “Christiansen”). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections. Claims 11-16 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1. For the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1, claims 11-16 are patentable over James in view of Tomizawa and Christiansen because Christiansen does not make up the deficiencies of James and Tomizawa. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejections.

The Examiner rejected claims 21-25, 27-29, 31-35, and 37-41 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over James in view of Christiansen, further in view of PCI Local Bus Specification (hereinafter, “PCI Specification”), and further in view of Tomizawa. Applicants

respectfully traverse the rejections. Claims 21-25, 27-29, 31-35, and 37-41 are patentable over James in view of Tomizawa, Christiansen, and PCI Specification for at least the reason discussed above with respect to claim 1 because PCI Specification fails to make up the deficiencies of James, Tomizawa, and Christiansen. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejections.

The Examiner rejected claim 26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over James, in view of Tomizawa, Christiansen, and PCI Specification, and further in view of Desyllas et al. (U.S. 4,697,268; hereinafter, "Desyllas"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Claim 26 depends indirectly from claim 21. For at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 21, claim 26 is patentable over James, in view of Tomizawa, Christiansen, PCI Specification, and Desyllas because Desyllas fails to make up the deficiencies of James, Tomizawa, Christiansen, and PCI Specification. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

The Examiner rejected claim 36 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over James, further in view of Tomizawa, Christiansen, PCI Specification, and Hartmann et al. (U.S. 6,047,002; hereinafter, "Hartmann"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Claim 36 depends indirectly from claim 21. For at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 21, claim 36 is patentable over James, in view of Tomizawa, Christiansen, and PCI Specification, and further in view of Hartmann because Hartmann fails to make up the deficiencies of James, Tomizawa, Christiansen, and PCI Specification. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

The Examiner rejected claim 42 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Szczepanek (U.S. 5,374,926; hereinafter "Szczepanek"), in view of Tomizawa, Christiansen, and PCI Specification. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for the reason discussed above with respect to claim 1 and, at least, the following reason. Claim 42 sets forth "the address chip including a configuration ring." The Examiner argued that Szczepanek discloses such a limitation because the external address compass logic 10 in the LAN adapter 4 is coupled to a

token ring LAN through the ring interface 9 (Office Action, p. 14, lines 5-6). Applicants respectfully disagree and submit that the address compass logic 10 in Szczepanek, which is within the LAN adapter 4, does not include a configuration ring. According to Szczepanek, the token ring LAN is not part of the address compass logic 10, which is a component within the LAN adapter 4 (Szczepanek, Figure 2; col. 7, lines 9-15). In other words, the address compass logic 10, which the Examiner analogized to the address chip in claim 42, does not include the token ring LAN, which the Examiner analogized to the configuration ring in claim 42. Furthermore, the other cited references fail to disclose such a limitation. For at least these reasons, claim 42 is patentable over Szczepanek, in view of Tomizawa, Christiansen, and PCI Specification. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

New claims 43-45 have been added without introducing any new matter. It is respectfully submitted that new claims 43-45 are novel and patentable over the cited references and allowance of claims 43-45 is respectfully requested.

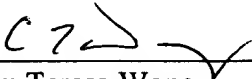
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) have been overcome by the remarks and withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested. Applicants submit that claims 1-29 and 31-45 are now in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Please charge any shortages and credit any overcharges to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: March 15, 2004



Chui-kiu Teresa Wong
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 48,042

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1026
(408) 720-8300